GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4640
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
KUDREMUKH UNIT
JOACHIM BAXLA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Unit is the only hundred per cent export oriented unit earning good foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the details of the lease awarded to it for mining in the fragile eco-system of the Western Ghat alongwith the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) is a 100% export-oriented unit and is one of the major exporters of iron ore concentrates and iron oxide pellets. It earns over US$150 million per annum in foreign exchange.

(b) M/s. NMDC was granted a mining lease (ML) No. 909 by the Government of Karnataka in July 1969 over an area of 4605 hectares in Kudremukh of Chickmagalur District for a period of 30 years. This lease was transferred to KIOCL in 1976 upon its formation. The mining lease so granted for 30 years in 1969 expired in July, 1999. Upon expiry of their mining lease, KIOCL was granted a temporary work permit to continue its operations in the broken up area of 1452.74 hectares within the mining lease area of 4605 hectares for a period of one year with effect from 25.7.1999 by the Government of India. This work permit was further extended for a period of one more year from 25.7.2000 subject to certain conditions which, inter-alia, are issue of final notification on constitution of Kudremukh National Park by 30.9.2000 and completion of environmental impact assessment studies within six months.

KIOCL has been taking all steps to protect the environment in and around the mining area.